



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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JUN 15 2018

Ref: 8P-AR

Bryce Bird
Director, Division of Air Quality
P. O. Box 144820
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4820

Dear Mr. Bird:

This letter is in response to your letters of November 17, 2017 and January 2, 2018, requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's concurrence on exceptional event claims for PM_{2.5} data impacted by wildfires in August and September 2017. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) determined that regional wildfire smoke events caused exceedances of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) at several monitoring sites across Utah in 2017.

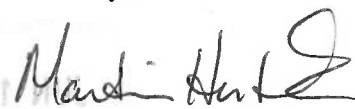
The EPA concurs with the Utah DEQ's determination that the 24-hour PM_{2.5} exceedances at the Smithfield monitoring site on August 6, September 5, September 6 and September 7, 2017, meet the criteria for an exceptional event in the Exceptional Events Rule (EER). The basis for this concurrence is set forth in the enclosed technical support document. Concurrence flags have been entered for these data in the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database.

The EPA is taking no action at this time on the remaining 2017 PM_{2.5} exceptional event requests submitted for additional dates or other monitoring sites. The EPA revised sections 50.14 and 51.930 of 40 CFR parts 50 and 51 (the EER) in September 2016. In particular, 40 CFR 51.14(a)(1)(i) now limits the applicability of the EER to data concerning NAAQS exceedances or violations that are relevant to regulatory determinations by the EPA. Data in AQS flagged as exceptional event that are not relevant to regulatory determinations will not be reviewed by the EPA for concurrence. The EPA has determined that the remaining 2017 data do not have any regulatory significance at this time. In the event that any of the data on which the EPA is deferring action become significant for a future regulatory action, the EPA will retain the August and September 2017 demonstrations for potential future consideration.

The determination conveyed in this letter does not constitute final action regarding any matter on which the EPA is required to provide an opportunity for public comment. In particular, this applies to determinations regarding the attainment status or classification of this area. Final actions will take place only after the EPA completes notice and comment rulemaking on those determinations.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (303) 312-6776. If your staff have questions or wish to discuss this matter further, they can contact Ethan Brown at (303) 312-6403.

Sincerely,

8105 2 1994


Martin Hestmark
Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance

Enclosure

cc: Joel Karmazyn, Utah DEQ Division of Air Quality